

4. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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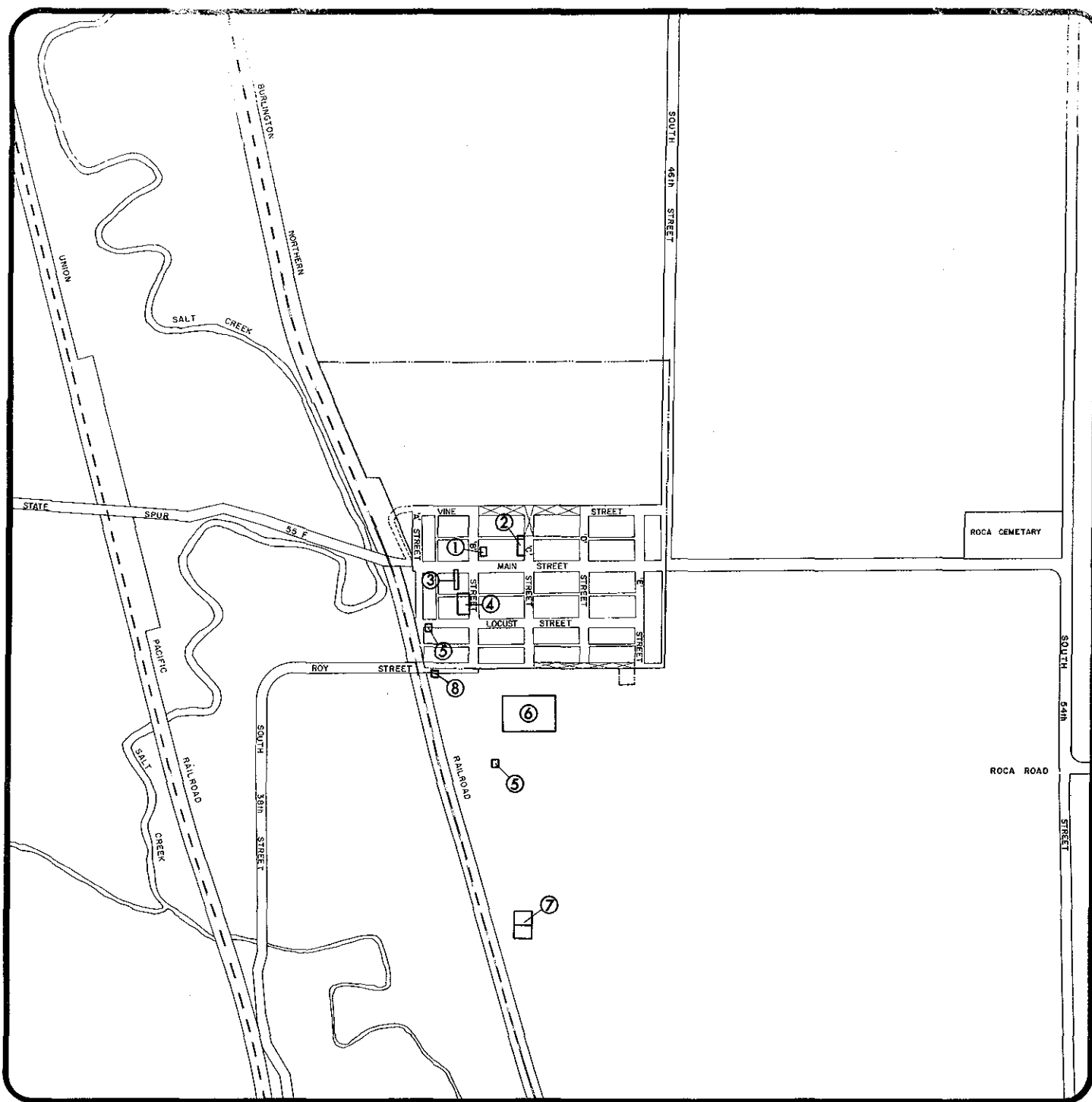
Community facilities and services provide for the day-to-day needs of the Village. They include services which affect the health, safety and well-being of area residents and businesses. Some are an absolute necessity, while others are highly desirable. All are key factors in the overall quality of life in the Village and must be adequately provided for in the future.

This element of the Plan reviews the existing community facilities (see map #6), discusses key issues involved in planning for future facilities and services, and presents the Plan recommendation for resolving these issues (see map #7).

Parks and Open Space

Roca presently has 0.4 acres of Village park land. This area is presently in poor condition and provides little recreation capability. To meet the recreation demand for the present population Roca needs a minimum of 3.5 acres of park land, based on State Game and Parks Commission minimum recreation guidelines and an additional acre will be needed by the year 2000. In addition to meeting the minimum guidelines the Village should take advantage of its unique environmental characteristics and historic heritage and strive to protect these resources.

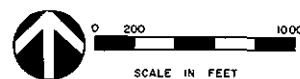
Salt Creek and its flood plain offer a substantial area of woodland and creek-related flora and fauna which has rich potential for open space, passive recreation and education. The Union Pacific Railroad line in the Roca area is proposed to be abandoned and consolidated onto the Burlington tracks. The resulting railroad right of way could be utilized as part of a trail system, in this case, providing access from and through Wilderness Park to Roca, the head waters of the Salt Creek and the Olatha-Roca Historic District. Should this opportunity occur, Roca should participate in its acquisition.



- ① POST OFFICE
- ② CHURCH
- ③ COMMUNITY BUILDING
- ④ PARK

- ⑤ WELLS
- ⑥ COUNTY MAINTENANCE GARAGE
- ⑦ SEWAGE LAGOON
- ⑧ SEWAGE LIFT STATION

ROCA, NEBRASKA COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



6

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It should be noted that the State of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has identified the County quarries, to the immediate south of town, as an educational area, offering potential to provide educational opportunities for geological studies. Two areas of particular interest for the Village in meeting recreational demand are 1) a wayside rest area on the south side of State Spur #55F to Salt Creek and 2) a ball diamond to the west of the Burlington tracks and north of Roy Street.

Schools

Roca is served by Norris Consolidated School District #160. This is a relatively new facility constructed in 1964 with an enrollment in grades K-12 of approximately 1,255. The facility is located approximately seven miles southeast of the Village and the local students are bused. This service is expected to continue unchanged through the planning period.

Community Hall

The Roca Community Hall and garage is a wood frame, one-room building, constructed in 1955 and located in the Village Center. This building serves as the meeting place for the Village Board, Planning Commission and such other public meetings, and as the Village polling place during elections. The Village tractor and mower are also stored in this building in a separate room. Landscaping of the area would be desirable. The structure should be adequate during the planning period.

Health Facilities

The Village has no health related facilities and these functions are served by other agencies. The services utilized by Roca are as follows: hospital service is provided by four hospitals in Lincoln, approximately 13 miles from the Village; medical attention is by Lincoln doctors' offices and the County "visiting nurse" program which operates in Hickman (3 miles away) on selected days of the month; ambulance service is provided by the two private ambulance services in Lincoln; and rescue service is provided by the Hickman Volunteer Fire Department. These services are expected to provide adequate service through the planning period. The possibility of establishing a visiting nurse program should be explored to improve this service to the community.

Fire Protection

Fire protection for the Village is provided by the Hickman Volunteer Fire Department and this arrangement appears to be quite adequate with response time estimated at about five minutes. However water reserve for fire fighting is non-existent and presents a serious problem. This will be addressed further in the Water Service section of this chapter.

Police Protection

Police protection for the Village is provided by the Lancaster County Sheriff Department. This arrangement works fairly well though additional service would be desirable. It is recommended that the Village contract with the Sheriff's Department for increased service when desirable.

Sewer

The Village installed a one cell aeration lagoon in 1969, designed for a population of 200 persons. This facility and its collection system is presently functioning quite adequately and since the design population of the lagoon exceeds the projected population growth in the planning period, the system should meet all demands during the planning period. Special attention should be maintained as to lagoon seepage, though there is no present problem, due to the lagoon's proximity to the Village water supply of shallow wells and the potential for contamination of the water supply. It should be noted that if water use per capita increases significantly during the planning period, or if population growth exceeds the projection, an additional lagoon cell may have to be added within the planning period.

Water

The existing water system consists of two wells, a 2,500 gallon pressure tank and a distribution system of 2-, 3-, and 4-inch lines. The two wells are about 35-40 feet in depth due to the proximity of limestone to the surface. Well #1 was installed in 1949 and is capable of 80-100 gallons per minute pumping. The water quality for well #1 indicates total dissolved solids and manganese in excess of public health standards and hardness in the excessively high range. Well #2 was installed in 1975 and

tests at about 40 gallons per minute. Water quality for this well is not presently available though it is assumed to be similar to well #1.

An engineering expert on the water system indicates several problems. Estimated daily use of water is approximately 24,000 gallons per day and peak use should be around 48,000 gallons per day. Only well #1 can approach meeting these demands, well #2 could not meet average demand or peak demand; thus there could be a water shortage if the Village had to rely only on well #2.

Water for fire fighting is presently totally inadequate. Recommended minimum standards for fire flow for a village of Roca's size indicate a need for 250 gallons per minute for four hours. To meet this demand water storage of 48-68,000 gallons is recommended. In order to insure the proper volume of delivery 6-inch water mains should be installed.

It is recommended the Village initiate further engineering study to determine capital needs of the water system to insure adequate water for daily use, fire protection, and emergency use such as power outages or breakdowns. The Village should then strive to meet these needs during the planning period.

Solid Waste

Solid waste disposal in the Village is presently served by the "Green Box". The present Green Box program is being discontinued and the Village will need to select a program of continuing solid waste disposal in some manner. Several alternatives for solid waste disposal are suggested below:

- A. Continuation of the Green Box through Village financing with the Village also setting their own controls, regulations and fees; contracting for use of the Lincoln land fill would be done by the County.
- B. Contracting, by the Village or a group of villages, a compactor to replace the Green Box (estimated price, \$12,500 to \$15,000). A coin operated compactor could possibly defray some costs. Utilization of Lincoln land fill would be on the same basis as above.

- C. Private hauler door-to-door pick up by Village contract. This could involve a household billing by the Village or contractor for the service and possibly some adjustments for low or fixed income households. Note: private hauler service is presently available in the Village.

Variations or combinations of these are also possible. A County contract for use of all citizens of the County of the Lincoln land fill is presently being negotiated.